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Serial No. 10/089,271

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as shown re-written below with amendments effected therein. Appendix I is attached hereto having marked versions of said claims with amendments indicated by brackets and underlining.

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3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the peroxide aerosol, before it is introduced into the bottles, is heated to a temperature of about 60° to 90°C and preferably of about 70° to 80°C as the starting temperature for the sterilization.

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4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the peroxide aerosol, before it is blown into the bottles, is introduced into flowing sterile air, which has been heated to an activation temperature and heated by the latter to the sterilization starting temperature on the way to the interior of the bottles.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the peroxide aerosol and the sterile air are kept separate until they enter the interior of the bottles.

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6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the introduction of peroxide aerosol into the interior of the bottles is carried out in at least two separate, consecutive steps.

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7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein, following the blowing in of peroxide aerosol, at least one pause in the action, corresponding to at least one conveying cycle of the bottles, precedes the blowing of sterile air, heated to the activation temperature, into the interior of the bottles.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein sterile air is blown in in at least two separate steps, corresponding in each case to one conveying cycle of the bottles.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the sterile air is heated to an activation temperature of about 90° to 120°C and preferably of about 110°C.

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10. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein, after sterile air heated to the activation temperature has been blown in, sterile air, which has been heated to a lower temperature, is blown in in subsequent, separate processes.

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12. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the sterile air, which has been heated to the activation temperature, is blown at the rate of about 25 to 30 m/s and preferably of about 28 m/s into the interior of the bottles.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the sterile air is blown in at a lower temperature with a flow rate of about 70 to 90 m/s and preferably of about 80 m/s into the interior of the bottles.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein sterile air is blown in over a period of 1 to 3 seconds and preferably of about 2 seconds.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein about 0.15 ml of peroxide per 100 cm<sup>2</sup> of interior surface of the bottles is introduced into the latter.

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